

What is the Joint Sunset Review Committee?

The Joint Sunset Review Committee (JSRC) is a joint Assembly and Senate Committee of the California Legislature created to review state government for efficiency and effectiveness. JSRC was created by AB 1659 (Huber), Chapter 666, Statutes of 2010.

A "sunset review" is an assessment of whether a state agency is necessary, effective, and efficient. Sunset review is conducted pursuant to a "sunset date" – an expiration date for the agency. The review focuses on the overall necessity of the agency, its cost-effectiveness, and measures its successes and failures. At the conclusion of a sunset review, the reviewing body may:

- Let the agency expire at the sunset date, or:
- Continue the agency; and may
- Make recommendations for improving operations, and/or
- Suggest legislation to aid the agency's mandate.

The term "agency" is used to mean any governmental entity subject to sunset review. JSRC has jurisdiction over any agency, authority, board, bureau, commission, conservancy, council, department, division, or office of state government, however denominated, excluding an agency that is constitutionally created or an agency related to postsecondary education.

Why have I been selected for review?

JSRC is mandated to review state government agencies, departments, committees, and commissions every 15 years. Your entity has been selected to participate in this review cycle to ensure that you are fulfilling your mission and operating effectively.

What is the review process?

The process begins with legislation placing a sunset date on an entity. A self-evaluation report (SER) is sent to the entity in the fall, two years before the sunset date, to be completed and returned later that same year (exact dates will vary). Committee staff will complete its review by the end of the year, and public sunset review hearings will commence early the following year. Any member of JSRC may sponsor legislation in furtherance of the entity.

The basic timeline is as follows:

2 years prior to sunset date:

August – September: SER is distributed to entity.

November – December: SER is returned to JSRC.

December – January: JSRC staff analyzes report, conducts any further research, and prepares background paper for hearing.

1 year prior to sunset date:

February – March: JSRC conducts public hearings on entity

February: Introduce Joint Sunset bill to extend sunset date or otherwise affect entity reviewed.

Bill must be heard in policy committees by April/May.

What do I have to do?

Please fill out the SER for your organization and submit it to the committee consultant by the date requested. It is also helpful to keep the committee consultant current on any ongoing activities, legislation, meetings, or other events you may be involved in prior to the sunset hearing.

What if I have questions?

Please contact committee staff; this is meant to be a collaborative review process.

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